

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A process for making a sliced bread product comprising providing a bread slice with a crust portion, toasting the bread slice, and compressing the toasted bread slice effective to crack the crust portion without permanently and substantially flattening the bread slice, wherein the compressing without permanently and substantially flattening the toasted bread slice comprises compressing the toasted bread slice having an original thickness to a reduced thickness of about 40 to about 60% of the original thickness while compression is being applied so that the bread crust portion is cracked and the bread slice returns to at least 90% of the original thickness after the step of compressing.

12. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the compressing comprises feeding roller contact pressure to a side of the toasted bread slice.

13. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the compressing comprises conducting the toasted bread slice through a pressure nip defined by at least one roller.

14. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the compressing comprises contacting a reciprocal platen press member with a side of the toasted bread slice.

15. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the toasting of the bread slice comprises grilling at least one side of the bread slice at a temperature of at least about 475°F for a predetermined amount of time.

16. (original) The process of claim 15, wherein the predetermined amount of time for toasting is less than about 60 seconds.

17. (original) The process of claim 11 further comprises applying an edible oil-containing substance to the cracked crust portion.

18. (original) The process of claim 11 further comprises freezing the toasted bread slice.

19. (original) The process of claim 18 further comprises reheating the frozen bread slice so as to provide a bread slice having a chewable crust.

20. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the bread slice has an original thickness and the compressing without permanently and substantially flattening the toasted bread slice comprises compressing the toasted bread slice so that the bread crust portion is cracked and the bread slice retains at least 90% of the original thickness.

21. (canceled)

22. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein the bread slice comprises a crumb surrounded at least in part by the crust portion and toasting the bread slice comprises browning the crumb.

23. (currently amended) A process for making a reheatable frozen sandwich comprising, providing bread slices having crusts, toasting the bread slices, compressing the toasted bread slices to crack the crusts without permanently and substantially flattening the bread slices, constructing a sandwich by placing an edible filling between the toasted bread slices having cracked crusts, and freezing the sandwich, wherein the compressing without permanently and substantially flattening the toasted bread slice comprises compressing the toasted bread slice having an original thickness to a reduced thickness of about 40 to about 60% of the original thickness while compression is being applied so that the bread crust is cracked and the bread slice returns to at least 90% of the original thickness after the step of compressing is completed.

24. (original) The process of claim 23 further comprises packaging the sandwich.

25. (original) The process of claim 23, wherein the compressing comprises applying roller contact pressure to a side of each toasted bread slice.

26. (original) The process of claim 23, wherein the compressing comprises feeding each toasted bread slice through a pressure nip defined by at least one roller.

27. (original) The process of claim 23, wherein the compressing comprises contacting a side of each toasted bread slice with a reciprocal platen press member.

28. (original) The process of claim 23 further comprises applying an edible oil-containing substance to the cracked crust before performing any freezing and reheating of the toasted bread slice.

29. (original) The process of claim 23, wherein the compressing without permanently and substantially flattening the toasted bread slices comprises compressing each toasted bread slice having a respective original thickness so that each respective bread crust is cracked and the respective bread slice returns to at least 90% of the respective original thickness.

30. (canceled)

31. (original) The process of claim 23, wherein toasting comprises heating at least one side of a bread slice having a crumb surrounded at least in part by the crust sufficient to brown the crumb.

32. (original) The process of claim 23, wherein the toasting of the bread slice comprises grilling at least one side of the bread slice at a temperature of at least about 475°F for less than about 60 seconds.

33. (original) The process of claim 32, the toasting of the bread slice comprises heating at least one side of the bread slice with an impingement oven for a length of time sufficient for toasting.